

Mari will be forever missed by her family and loved ones and by the entire racing community across Indiana and the world. The people of Indiana's Fifth Congressional District are grateful for Mari's service to our Hoosier community and it is my privilege to honor her today. I extend my deepest condolences to Mari's daughters, Nancy George, Josie George, and Kathi George-Conforti, son, Anton Hulman "Tony" George, stepdaughter, Carolyn Coffey, and their respective spouses, her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and her longtime companion, Guy Trollinger. Her legacy as the matriarch of the racing capital of the world will live on for generations to come through her family, friends, and colleagues.

RECOGNIZING RONALD MERWIN
FOR THE 2018 MONTANA CON-
GRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ronald Merwin of Ronan, a recipient of the 2018 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Merwin served 21 distinguished years in the United States Navy as a submarine specialist. A member of the "silent service," Mr. Merwin was a valued shipmate and officer on conventional and nuclear submarine deployments during the height of the Cold War. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander before his retirement in 1981.

Mr. Merwin is actively involved in numerous veterans and civic organizations serving his community. As Commander of VFW Post 5652 in Ronan, Mr. Merwin was awarded the rare honor of being named a VFW All American Post Commander. He coordinates fundraising events, youth programs, community celebrations, and was a board member of the Ninepipes Museum of Early Montana for 15 years.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Ronald Merwin for his dedication and service.

HONORING ANDY MORRISON

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of the entire 6th Congressional District of Indiana, to recognize Andy Morrison for his contribution to our state.

After a distinguished career as a high-ranking executive at Wellpoint, Andy now serves as the CEO of Fulcrum Sports, which produces high quality performance nutrition solutions for athletes. Outside of work, Andy has been dedicated to improving the community in which he lives. It has been an honor to work with him in advancing our shared Republican principles.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Andy for nearly a decade. He has been a good friend,

wise advisor and loyal supporter during my entire tenure in Congress.

I want to thank Andy for his friendship and loyalty to me over all these years. I wish him continued success in all that God has planned for his family.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IN-
CREASED TRANSPARENCY IN
501(C)(4) ORGANIZATIONS ACT OF
2018

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Increased Transparency in 501(c)(4) Organizations Act of 2018. This bill would require the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to make publicly available the forms organizations self-declaring under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) must file with the IRS. Americans have the right to know which organizations are operating under this section of the IRC.

To be eligible for tax-exempt status under 501(c)(4), organizations, often referred to as "social welfare organizations," must be "devoted exclusively to charitable, educational, or recreational purposes." They can choose to apply for 501(c)(4) status from the IRS, or they can simply self-declare. Previously, organizations seeking to self-declare their 501(c)(4) status were not required even to notify the IRS of their existence. In 2015, however, Congress enacted the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015 (the PATH Act). Under that law, an organization seeking to self-declare their 501(c)(4) status now must file a notice with the IRS that it is operating under this section. The PATH Act did not, however, make the new notice form, Form 8976, subject to public disclosure.

The IRS has opined that Form 8976 cannot be made available under the Freedom of Information Act or other disclosure laws. This creates a discrepancy between all organizations operating under Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations that applied that for status, for which the IRS must make publicly available information on their existence, and self-declared 501(c)(4) organizations. This discrepancy appears to have been inadvertently created by Congress when it passed the PATH Act.

My bill would correct this oversight and mandate that the IRS publicly disclose Form 8976 upon request, thus allowing the public to know which organizations exist under 501(c)(4). In the aftermath of the Citizens United Supreme Court decision, which allows for unlimited expenditure in political campaigns from these "social welfare" groups, this bill is especially important to allow for greater transparency. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on November 30, 2018 I missed a Roll Call vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on No. 425.

RECOGNIZING ALFRED OLSON FOR
THE 2018 MONTANA CONGRES-
SIONAL VETERAN COMMENDA-
TION

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alfred Olson of Miles City, a recipient of the 2018 Montana Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to his country and leadership in his community.

Mr. Olson is a veteran of the United States Air Force. He served from 1956 to 1962 in the 4061st Civil Engineer Squadron, earning the Air Force Longevity Service Award, and attaining the rank of Airman 2nd Class.

Serving his community as a dedicated Senior Corp RSVP volunteer, Mr. Olson has driven nearly 100,000 miles and logged over 10,000 hours transporting veterans to medical appointments. But Mr. Olson provides much more than just transportation. His kindness and dedication to the needs of Montana's veterans enhances their quality of life with friendly interaction, meals, and comfort.

Mr. Olson never hesitates to go the extra mile. On one occasion he spent an unplanned three days on the road giving comfort and care to a veteran who had surgery in Helena.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending Alfred Olson for his dedication and service.

EDWARD MESSER RETIREMENT
FROM JPL NASA DEEP SPACE
NETWORK

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions that Edward Messer has made throughout his thirty-five years of service towards the JPL Deep Space Network.

Edward Messer's 35 year contribution to our space program began in 1982, as an operations Station technician in charge of handling spacecraft telecommunications for orbital supports and support of human space missions. Edward soon had the opportunity to operate the Space Shuttle Command System, through which he manually transmitted commands to the shuttles, supporting many missions for the shuttle program. Additionally, Edward operated Shuttle TV which transmitted Shuttle live video to a global audience. In the late 1980's, Edward served as the Operations Chief Tech in the Deep Space Network, granting him the opportunity to support various launches, landings, and orbit insertions, as well as establishing and maintaining communication links with spacecraft journeying across the solar system. Missions throughout his career ranged from the launch of the Hubble Space Telescope and landing the Pathfinder mission on Mars to the orbital insertion and tracking of the Cassini mission studying the rings and moons